

19 July 2024

Dear Parents Carers

I write to you as we come to the end of a really positive year here at Outwood Academy City. We have enjoyed so many highlights, and I really hope you've been able to keep up to date with these on our social media pages. We finished last week with an amazing whole-school Sports Day, and two superb performances of High School Musical. This week, we finished with our Year 11 mock results evening on Tuesday, and our 'Story of Progress' evening last night, which was truly wonderful.

As the academic year comes to an end, I am truly grateful for all that you have done to support our school and our students. It has been a delight to get to know you all over the course of this year, and I am excited about what the next year will bring.

My letter today includes some important information when your child will return to school in September and some key reminders so we can start the new year off really successfully.

### **September 2024 return**

- **Monday 2nd September 2024** - Staff training day (Academy closed to students)
- **Tuesday 3rd September 2024** - Year 7 and 11 return to the academy
- **Wednesday 4th September 2024** - Year 9 return to the academy
- **Thursday 5th September 2024** - Year 8 and 10 return to the academy.

### **Uniform**

Thank you so much for ensuring that your child attends school every day looking so smart. It really does help us to create the sense of belonging and 'team' that we are trying to instil here. If you are buying new uniform over the summer, just to clarify - trousers should not be of a 'stretchy' or 'elasticated' type of material which 'pings' back against the body. They should be loose at the ankle. Skirts should also not be of a stretchy type material. I would advise getting a skirt that contains pleats and falls away from the body. Black tights, at least 40 denier, should always be worn, or black socks if wearing trousers.

## **School shoes**

School shoes must be plain black, no trainers, no Vans, no Converse, no boots, no pumps or canvas shoes. Shoes should be of a material that can be polished. Please do not buy shoes that contain big bows or metal adornments - shoes should be as plain as possible. If you are unsure, please message us in advance to avoid buying shoes that may not be acceptable. Please also see the photos below for guidance.



## **Hairstyles, Makeup and Nails**

Please ensure that students return to school with natural hair colour. Hair accessories can be worn but should be discreet and must be black or purple please. Noticeable makeup is not allowed and any makeup worn must be very discreet. We know that some students may like to get their eyelashes and nails done over the summer holidays, but please ensure that these are removed for the first day back as nail polish, false nails and eyelashes are not allowed in the academy.

## **Jewellery and Smart Watches**

No jewellery is allowed except a wrist watch and a medic alert necklace or bracelet. Smart watches are not allowed in the Academy. If a student is thinking about having their ears pierced, or any other piercing, this should be done at the start of the summer holidays, as no student will be allowed to wear earrings or any other jewellery at any time.

## **Mobile Phones**

Mobile phones are not permitted to be used on the Academy premises and should one be brought to the Academy it must be turned off, and placed in the bottom of the student's bag. If students are seen on their mobile at any point, the policy dictates that they will be confiscated and a parent will need to collect, so please remind your child of the importance of their phones being off and in their bag.

## **Holidays**

We are sympathetic to why parents may want to make the most of term-time holidays being far cheaper than those outside of term time, but we encourage you, if at all possible, to avoid this, as any time out of school can be severely detrimental to your child's progress and puts them far behind their peers on their return. You will also receive guidance on the new fining procedure around this as implemented by the local authority. Please be mindful of this to avoid large fines and potential prosecution.

## **Punctuality**

A reminder that students are expected to be at the Academy by 8:15 every day and we run a breakfast club from 07.50 to encourage this. If students arrive after 8.25 they will be issued with a same-day detention as it is really important that students are here on time. Rules around registers closing will also change from September so lateness can also result in unauthorised absences and potential fines, so it is really important that young people get to school on time. If you need any support with this, please let us know.

## **Farewells**

Before I go I just wanted to say goodbye and recognise the outstanding contributions made by three of our most long standing members of staff, who are moving on to pastures new. Mr Shackleton in Art is moving away to be nearer family after dedicating 19 years of service to our community, Ms Aden, is also moving away with family after 17 years of service, and Ms Hughes in English is retiring, after serving this community for 28 years, which is longer than I've been alive (I wish!). My personal thanks to you all - it has been a joy to work with you this year, and I'm sure everyone will join me in wishing you the very best of luck in your next endeavours.

So, to end, I would like to again thank you all for your continued support. May I take this opportunity to wish both parents and students a really enjoyable summer and let's hope we finally see some continued sun! Please stay safe and I can't wait to see you all next term.

Yours faithfully,



Emily Rosaman  
Principal